

REMARKS

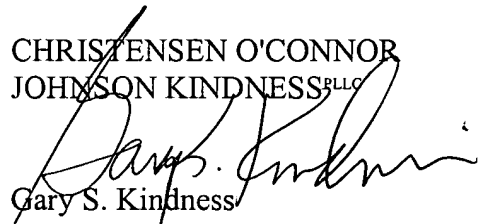
Applicants request that the above-identified patent application be re-examined.

The final Office Action mailed June 6, 2006 ("Office Action"), rejected Claims 9 and 11 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being fully anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,204,033, issued to Pearce et al. ("Pearce"). Claims 10 and 12 were also rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of the teachings of Pearce and taken in view of the teachings of U.S. Patent No. 5,716,686, issued to Black ("Black"). While applicants respectfully disagree with these grounds of rejection, in order to advance this application to issue, Claims 9-12 have been canceled.

Since all the remaining claims in this application, Claims 1-8, have been allowed, applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Consequently, early and favorable action allowing this application and passing it to issue is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or comments concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned attorney at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR  
JOHNSON KINDNESS<sup>PLLC</sup>

  
Gary S. Kindness

Registration No. 22,178

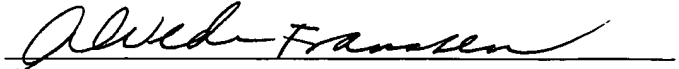
Direct Dial No. 206.695.1702

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first-class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

Date:

August 3, 2006

GSK:aew



LAW OFFICES OF  
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS<sup>PLLC</sup>  
1420 Fifth Avenue  
Suite 2800  
Seattle, Washington 98101  
206.682.8100